

Latimer

Hugh Latimer was born c. 1485 at Mountsorrel in Leicestershire, and was born again while attending Cambridge University. "From that time forward," he wrote, "I began to smell the Word of God, and forsook the school doctors and such fooleries." A fearless preacher of the Gospel, he was persecuted by enemies within the church, but gained the protection of King Henry VIII, being given the post of Bishop of Worcester. When 'Bloody Mary' came to the throne in 1553, he was arrested for his Protestantism and condemned to death, along with fellow preacher Nicholas Ridley. The execution took place outside Balliol College, Oxford, in 1555. An iron chain was fastened about both Ridley's and Latimer's waists to a stake, which was piled around with wood. A bag of gunpowder was tied around each man's neck. When the fires began to burn, Latimer called out to Ridley:

"Be of good comfort, master Ridley, and play the man; we shall this day light such a candle, by God's grace, in England, as I trust shall never be put out."

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